

Claims

What is claimed is:

Sub A2 }
1. A device for being integrated with a computer operating system, said device comprising:

5 at least one hardware component; and

at least one description subsystem associated with said at least one hardware component;

said at least one description subsystem being adapted to facilitate integration of said device with a computer operating system.

10 2. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one description subsystem comprises interface logic for interpreting commands received over an interface between said device and a computer operating system.

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3. The device according to Claim 2, further comprising:

non-volatile memory;

15 said interface logic being adapted to control said non-volatile memory.

4. The device according to Claim 2, wherein said interface logic is adapted to facilitate identification of said device.

5. The device according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a device driver;

5 said interface logic being adapted to facilitate the provision of information to a computer operating system relating to the version of said device driver.

6. The device according to Claim 2, wherein said interface logic is adapted to assist a computer operating system in obtaining a copy of a device driver for installation in said device.

10 7. The device according to Claim 2, wherein said interface logic is adapted to provide a reference to a network location where a recent version of a device driver is obtainable.

15 8. The device according to Claim 7, wherein said interface logic is adapted to facilitate the updating of a network location at which a recent version of a device driver is obtainable.

9. The device according to Claim 2, wherein said interface logic is adapted to

10. The device according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a locally stored device driver, stored on said device;

5 said interface logic being adapted to compare said locally stored device driver with
a remotely stored device driver so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a
newer version and to prompt usage of the newer version.

11. The device according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a locally stored device driver, stored on said device;

10 said interface logic being adapted to prompt usage of said locally stored device
driver if a remotely stored device driver is not accessible.

12. The device according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a locally/stored device driver, stored on said device;

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said interface logic being adapted to compare said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver at predetermined time intervals so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version.

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13. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a printer.

14. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a modem.

15. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a graphics card.

16. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a sound card.

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17. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a IDE disk controller.

18. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a SCSI disk controller.

19. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a network controller.

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25. The method according to Claim 20, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises the updating of a network location at which a recent version of a device driver is obtainable.

26. The method according to Claim 20, wherein said facilitating of integration
5 comprises facilitating the updating of device driver information stored on said device.

27. The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising comparing said locally stored device
driver with a remotely stored device driver so as to determine which of said device drivers
10 is of a newer version and to prompt usage of the newer version.

28. The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising prompting usage of said locally stored
device driver if a remotely stored device driver is not accessible.

29. The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising comparing said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver at predetermined time intervals so as to
5 determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version.

30. The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising comparing said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver so as to determine which of said device drivers
10 is of a newer version and querying a user to choose between versions.

31. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for facilitating the integration of a device with a computer operating system via at least one component associated with the device.

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a device driver stored on said hardware component.

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